

## Same again?

MANAGER John Reardon is expected to give his side a vote of confidence after Tuesday night's 4-0 triumph over Staines, when Wycombe Wanderers make the long trip to Tilbury tomorrow (Saturday) in the Isthmian League.

Tilbury, who lost many of last season's squad to rivals Walthamstow, are struggling in 18th place in the Premier Division and went down 2-1 to Boreham Wood on Tuesday.

### ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to and inc. 25/10/77)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	13	3	1	34	11	42
Hitchin	19	12	3	4	36	21	39
Wycombe	19	12	2	5	34	18	38
Leatherhead	18	11	4	3	39	16	37
Hendon	20	10	5	5	33	24	35
Tooting	19	10	4	5	26	20	34
Dagenham	20	10	3	7	39	32	33
Staines	16	8	5	3	20	18	29
Sutton	15	8	2	5	18	14	26
Carshalton	15	7	4	4	26	17	25
Hayes	15	6	5	4	17	13	23
Boreham W.	13	6	2	5	19	21	20
Barking	15	6	1	8	22	20	19
Croydon	14	5	2	7	16	12	17
Walthamstow	13	4	4	5	15	20	16
Leytonstone	15	2	6	7	15	25	12
Tilbury	15	2	5	8	17	28	11
Southall	16	2	5	9	15	29	11
Slough	14	2	3	9	16	30	9
Woking	15	2	1	12	14	30	7
Stortford	20	0	5	15	17	51	5

**AFTER** some rather disappointing performances recently, Wycombe Wanderers turned their own clocks back on Tuesday night with a vintage display that brought them a flattering but thoroughly deserved victory and double over Staines in the Isthmian League.

Wycombe supporters have waited a long time to see their side click this season. Too often, the games have been slow and lethargic. At Loakes Park on Tuesday it was entirely different as the Blues produced their best display yet in a cracking game of football where no quarter was asked or given.

Fizzing attacks from the back, precision passing and the necessary aggression were all there as Wanderers came up with the sort of football that won them four titles in five years. It was tremendous stuff.

But give full credit to Staines for playing their part in this game. They certainly weren't four goals worse on the night and had a goal early in the second half been allowed to stand with the score at 2-0, it could have been very different at the end. They put the home side under pressure for most of the second half but sound defending and another fine goalkeeping display by Peter Spittle kept them at bay.

So what caused this sudden change in the Wycombe side? Certainly, the switching of Mick

## Wycombe Wanderers 4, Staines Town 0 REPORT BY STUART EARP

Holifield to the front line, thus accommodating Farouk Quraishi in midfield, made a difference but it was more a case of the players' attitude. They all worked hard and played at a cracking pace but it was the competitive spirit that won them this game more than anything else. Typical of this was Paul Birdseye who returned after injury and enjoyed an excellent 90 minutes.

It was good to see the ball being played forward rather than backwards or square and the speed of their attacks produced plenty of entertainment and also its quota of errors, too.

An early goal always helps and it took the Blues just four minutes to open their account with a peculiar score. Holifield burst onto the scene with a flashing run and shot which thudded against the foot of an upright. Staines' keeper Dave Collyer was beaten by the power of the drive and was on the ground when the ball rebounded out, hit his back and rolled across the line. Without his assistance it might not have gone in, so technically it must go down as an o.g.

The early breakthrough boosted Wycombe's confidence, and both Howard Kennedy and Graham Mackenzie went close. Staines also had their moments and John Love, pushed into the front line, was only a yard away with a dipping 30 yard drive.

### KENNEDY SCORES

Wanderers went 2-0 up after 37 minutes. Dylan Evans lost

possession but the ball was picked up by Mackenzie who chipped into the box. Holifield nodded on and Kennedy found himself in a surprising amount of space and had time to look up before placing the ball wide of Collyer. A glorious move involving Evans, Holifield and Derek Harris which covered 80 yards and took no more than three passes, ended with the latter firing into Collyer's arms, but the confidence and accuracy was a measure of Wycombe's football on the night.

The Blues certainly deserved their half-time applause but Staines were far from a beaten side and they threw everything they had at Wycombe in the second half. It was here that Spittle showed why he has taken over as the number one goalkeeper recently. He pushed aside a shot from Arthur Rowlands after 50 minutes and went on to make some brave saves to thoroughly earn his 'clean sheet'.

The action surged from end to end with some thrilling moves from either side but Wanderers in general couldn't find their accuracy of the first half. Staines always looked likely to score and were unlucky to have a goal disallowed when Peter Beasant chipped the ball over Spittle and into the net. Referee Maber spotted a foul on the 'keeper and despite heated protests from the visitors, disallowed the score.

Tony Horseman replaced the hard-working Kennedy in the 73rd minute, not a popular substitution amongst the crowd and Kennedy certainly made his

views known by trudging dejectedly off the field. Within five minutes, however, Wanderers ended the Staines pressure by scoring their third goal which put them out of reach. Steve Vass floated a free kick to the far post where Evans was allowed a free header and made no mistake.

### BEST GOAL

Best goal of the game came in the 82nd minute. Vass was deep inside his own half when Horseman played the ball upfield. But it was Steve who emerged from a ruck of players and sprinted half the length of the field in a truly remarkable run before unselfishly squaring the ball. It struck Tony Waugh and rolled towards the goal-line and it was only fitting that Vass should get the vital touch to make it 4-0.

Ex-Wanderer Rob Williams was booked for a late tackle on Harris to record a personal double. He was also cautioned in the match at Staines when Wanderers won 3-1.

Spittle pulled off a point-blank save from Bob Hynes in the closing stages while Quraishi could have made it five at the other end when he drove over the top, but no-one was complaining after a marvellous match.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, S. Vass; G. Mackenzie, H. Kennedy (sub A. Horseman 72 mins), F. Quraishi; D. Evans, D. Harris, M. Holifield.

**STAINES:** D. Collyer; B. O'Sullivan, R. Williams, P. Shaw, R. Brown; P. Beasant (sub A. Waugh 70 mins), B. Hynes, G. Hart; J. Love, P. Osbourne, A. Rowlands.

**Half-time:** 2-0. **Goalscorers:** Collyer o.g. (4), Kennedy (37), Evans (78), Vass (82).

**Referee:** T. Maber (Ruislip). **Attendance:** 1,050.